

WALLOWA RANGER STATION, OFFICE (Office #2006)
602 First Street
Wallowa
Wallowa County
Oregon

HABS No. OR-157-A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Sally Donovan, Photographer May 1991

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
WALLOWA RANGER STATION, Office
(Office #2006)

HABS No. OR-157-A

Location: 602 First Street, Wallowa, Wallowa County, Oregon

Significance: The office is significant individually for the fine craftsmanship on the interior and exterior. Exceptional features include; stone porch, knotty pine paneling on the interior, decorative crown molding, and finely crafted counter and arch. The office displays exterior details which match the other four station buildings: wide horizontal siding, board and batten with zig-zag cut ends, cut-out tree symbols and squared timber posts

Description: Rectangular in plan with an off-set intersecting cross gable, the one and one half story office is a nailed wood frame structure with a poured concrete foundation. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. A brick interior chimney of stretcher bond is off-set on the south-projecting rear cross gable. The exterior walls are covered with wide cedar lap siding (1"x 12"). Eaveless gable ends are covered with board and batten siding.

Windows were originally all six over six double hung wood sash. Some windows have since been altered to one over one double hung wood sash. Windows on the north and west facades have decorative vertical board shutters.

The main entrance (north) is off-set in the projecting cross gable. Recessed into the building volume is a small front porch with a stone floor and two stone steps. The porch opening is framed with 8"x 8" squared timber posts with curved brackets, and a scroll carved lintel. The front door is comprised of a single leaf vertical board. An original iron light fixture hangs from the porch ceiling. The rear corner entrance is also sheltered by a recessed porch which has similar detailing to the front porch. A cut-out tree symbol is in the cross gable end of the north elevation and the shutters.

Interior: The interior plan is comprised of two main rooms (originally designated as office and plating room), an entry and bath on the first floor; a large open room on the second floor and a basement. The two main rooms flank an entry and small back hall. The entry has knotty pine paneled walls. A small closet is to the west of the front door in the entry. To the east of the front door is an original counter. The counter which divides the office and the hall is elaborately decorated in knotty pine which is stained a light green. The counter is 3'5 1/2" high and 21 1/2" wide. An arch, which frames the counter, is comprised of a pair of pilasters with carved brackets. Prominent pegs secure the brackets to the pilasters and a pair of chamfered decorative beams. On the office side of the counter are built-in shelves and drawers. The crown molding throughout the entry, office and plating room is cut in a chevron pattern with holes or dots piercing each chevron. The walls are paneled with green stained knotty pine which varies in width from 5" to 10 1/2" wide. All the ceilings have been covered with soundproof asbestos tiles. Most of the floors are covered with linoleum.

The upstairs room is one large space with a closet set in the front (north) projecting gable and a window in the rear (south) projecting gable. The basement is divided into two rooms: it was remodeled in 1958 for use as a drafting room.

History: The office is an integral part of the Ranger Station complex in both function and design. Its placement at the beginning of the complex was to provide convenient public access to the building.

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Sources. Throop, E. Gail, Historian, Recreation Unit, Regional Office USDA, Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. *Wallowa Ranger Station Evaluation Report*, January 8, 1982. Site Analysis by Sally Donovan and Kimberly Lakin, May 1991. Original blueprints from the files of Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office Baker City, Oregon.

Historian: Kimberly Lakin, June 1991